

**ABSTRACT**

Network reference models and configuration tools utilizing a database engine providing deduction facilitate automatic or semi-automatic configuration of security software packages based on security policies. One or more associated databases provide a central repository of information about the network and its security goals. The associated databases may further provide a central repository of information about network events, such as possible attacks and benign events that could be confused with attacks. Taken together, the database engine and associated databases facilitate automated generation of detailed security goals. The security goals can then be used by various configuration modules to configure security software packages installed within the network.

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